Torrance, California September 22, 1953

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, September 22, 1953, Mayor Schwab presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Spelman and Schwab. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall.

Councilman Benstead led the salute to our Flag.

Rev. Kobes of the First Methodist Church opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Benstead moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 8, 1953, be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Mayor Schwab announced this is the time and place for the continuation of the third and final hearing of Planning Commission Case No. 264, Change of Zone, initiated by the Torrance Planning Commission, on the West side of Western Avenue between 174th Street and a point 343.12 feet North of the center line of 190th Street, from Zone A-1 (Light Agricultural) and Zone C-2 (General Commercial) to Zone M-1 (Light Manufacturing), for a depth of 200 feet net, or 250 feet from the center line of Western Avenue.

Mayor Schwab called for oral protests. There being none, Councilman Benstead moved the hearing be closed. Motion, seconded by

Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission for approval of Case No. 264, subject to the condition that a ten-foot easement be granted the City for future street purposes between 174th Street and 190th Street on the west side of the street. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Clerk Bartlett said he would like at this time to recommend transferring funds from the Motor Vehicle Fund to the General Fund, in the amount of \$75,000, and also to arrange for the Registration of Warrants at once.

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendation of City Clerk Bartlett. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

City Clerk Bartlett read the following:

Letter from Ralph H. Fritsche protesting the fence being erected by his neighbor in excess of six feet which he claims is in violation of Ordinance No. 646.

Councilman Drale moved this communication be referred to the Land Use Investigator, Chief of Police and the City Attorney. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request of God's Bounty Mission, Inc. for permission to collect discarded household items and newspapers in the City of Torrance. City Clerk Bartlett recommended denial of this request, as the Better Business Bureau has no record of such an organization.

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendation of City Clerk Bartlett. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request from the Torrance Unified School District for the City to install sidewalks on Prairie Avenue in front of the Perry School. After a general discussion, Councilman Drale moved the request be sent back to the School District with the recommendation that all improvements for new schools should be put in by the schools, to include streets, curbs, gutters and sidewalks. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Request of David Glabe, Anchor Point, Alaska, for an extention of time to July 15, 1954, on his building permit to construct a residence at 24900 Hawthorne Boulevard.

Councilman Spelman moved the request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Communication from H. F. B. Roessler, Mayor of Palos Verdes Estates, expressing thanks to the Torrance Fire Department for their help in extinguishing a brush fire on Labor Day.

Councilman Spelman moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Communication from the Pacific Hills Home Owners, Inc. requesting permission for a three-man committee from their organization to meet with the City Council at the next Agenda meeting to discuss drainage problems.

Councilman Benstead moved their request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Report from the County of Los Angeles Health Department regarding sanitary conditions relative to hog farms.

Councilman Spelman moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Communication from the Allied Gardens Property Owners Association requesting action regarding street lighting, drainage and parkway problems in their locality.

After a general discussion Councilman Blount moved this communication be referred to the next Agenda meeting, and requested the Street Superintendent be notified to attend the meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Request, signed by James F. Woodburn, to install sidewalks, curbs and gutters on the 1700 Block of Fern Avenue and 100' East of Fern on Monterey and 150' West of Fern on Monterey Avenue by means of the "Participating Plan." Request was also made for the City to furnish all necessary engineering, surveying, grading and paving to complete the installation.

Councilman Drale moved the request be granted if the City Manager and the Engineering Department approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Communication from the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D. C., indicating the status of the Special Census.

Councilman Drale moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously.

Notification from the Office of the Sheriff of the County of Los Angeles of annual adjustment in rates covering care of City prisoners in the Los Angeles County Jail.

• City Clerk Bartlett said this was a matter of record. Councilman Drale moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Communication from the County of Los Angeles Health Department - Subject: Approval of Public Swimming Pool Plans by Health Officer prior to issuance of Building and Plumbing Permit.

Councilman Benstead moved the communication be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Petition from homeowners in Torrance Gardens and Torrance Plaza requesting installation of steel standards 31 feet in height, supporting a lamp 30 feet above the ground, and spaced 150 to 200 feet apart. The cost per home would be \$30.00, to be collected within ninety days of the date the City accepts the petition as binding.

City Engineer Bishop recommended approval of the installation of these street lights.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of City Engineer Bishop. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously.

Letter from City Engineer Bishop regarding the operation and maintenance costs of traffic signals to be installed by the Douglas Aircraft Company, Inc., at Western Avenue and their access road.

Councilman Spelman moved this communication be referred to the Traffic Commission for recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

PERSONNEL:

1. That Victor Ordaz be employed to serve his probationary period as a Laborer in the Water Department, effective September 9, 1953, at the first salary step.

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens, item one, under Personnel. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. That Patricia R. Sargent be temporarily employed as a Typist Clerk in the Building Department, effective September 18, 1953, at the first salary step.

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens, item two, under Personnel. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. That Robert L. Kulp be temporarily employed as a parttime Janitor, effective September 4, 1953, at the first salary step.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager stevens, item three, under Personnel. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. That the salary of Earle A. Lloyd, Planning Consultant, be established at \$265.00 per month, beginning July 1, 1953.

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens, item four, under Personnel. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

 That the Council authorize the Civil Service Board to hold examinations for Police Chief, Assistant Police Chief and Captain of Police.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens, item number five, under Personnel. Councilman Drale requested the motion be amended to include: "In accordance." with the present Civil Service Ordinance of the City of Torrance." Councilman Benstead so amended his motion. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, was defeated by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMAN: Benstead and Drale. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Spelman and Schwab. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Spelman moved the City Attorney be directed to amend our Civil Service Ordinance to permit an open examination. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Spelman and Schwab. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead and Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Drale said he was going to qualify his voting on this: "The City of Torrance Civil Service Ordinance was voted by the people of the City of Torrance, and it definitely says the employees of the City of Torrance shall be residents of the City of Torrance. We have personnel in the City of Torrance who have spent twenty or twenty-five years in the Department and are well qualified to take the examination. I believe these gentlemen should be given the opportunity to take the examination. That's what they are working for the City of Torrance for."

Councilman Blount said he did not believe there was anything in the motion to prevent anyone on the present Police Force from taking the examination. Councilman Drale said, "When you call for an open examination, that means that people outside of Torrance can take the examination." Councilman Blount said he would like to correct the statement made by Councilman Drale: "The people of the City of Torrance do not pass ordinances and they have passed no ordinances." Councilman Drale said the people of Torrance voted on the Civil Service Ordinance and adopted it and its present measures.. Councilman Benstead agreed with Councilman Drale and said the Ordinance was adopted under the Charter.

Councilman Spelman said the reason for his motion was because in his opinion, "We are talking about the hottest job in the City of Torrance" and he personally felt "We should look far and wide for the best man we can possibly find. If, when the examination is taken and all of our people within the Department take that examination who are eligible, and they end up high man on the 'totem pole', I will be the first man to vote for their appointment and six months' probationary period, but I want to be very very sure that we leave no stone unturned to find the best possible man available to replace John Stroh."

Councilman Drale inquired if Councilman Spelman wished to amend the ordinance just for these offices.

Councilman Spelman said he recommended we set up a committee to include the City Attorney, the City Manager and our present Chief of Police John Stroh to set the amendment up very carefully so that it will cover all points to be considered.

Councilman Drale asked if his recommendation would be to amend the Civil Service Ordinance to include all classifications from labor on up. Councilman Blount said that would not be a bad idea.

Councilman Drale said it seemed to him there was a little partiality or something being shown when the examinations are opened up for just one specific job. Councilman Blount reminded him that examinations are opened up all the time. Councilman Drale said he knew residence requirements were waived from time to time but in this particular case there are eligible men in the Department and it was his opinion this job was just being set up for somebody. Councilman Blount reminded him they were only trying to get the best qualified man to be the Chief of Police of Torrance. Councilman Drale said this was in violation of the Civil Service Ordinance.

Councilman Benstead said he thought the examinations will determine the best qualified man; we have done it before for the key jobs and come up with some fine men. He didn't think any Councilman could pick the best man for the job - the examinations should determine that. Then, "If we can't find a man in the City, there would be plenty of time to open the examination."

Councilman Spelman moved a committee to include the City Manager, City Attorney and the Chief of Police be appointed to set up this amendment properly. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Spelman and Schwab. DECLINED TO VOTE: COUNCILMEN: Benstead and Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Drale said he would like the City Attorney to give him a written opinion as to the legality of setting up such a special condition for a special classification in the City of Torrance. He still believed the only way the ordinance could be amended was by the vote of the people.

City Attorney Hall said sometime ago the Council amended the ordinance, setting up a system for the offices of the Chief of Police, as well as the assistants. He told Councilman Drale he would be happy to supply him with a written opinion if he desired, and thought perhaps he would like to review the prior ordinance which has already been passed. Councilman Drale said he would still like to have a written opinion before he voted on this motion and that was his reason for declining to vote.

Councilman Drale moved a promotional examination be set up for the office of Police Chief, Assistant Police Chief and Captain of Police whthout waiving and without going outside the City of Torrance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, was defeated by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead and Drale. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Spelman and Schwab. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. That funds, in an amount not to exceed \$150 be appropriated for "Welcome Home" ceremonies for Prisoner of War Corporal Danny Arellano.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens, item one, under Appropriations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. That False Arrest-Assault insurance be provided employees of the Police Department at a cost of approximately \$250.

Councilman Spelman moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens, item two, under Appropriations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. That the contract with Mrs. Maybel C. Banks, for operation of the Bus Depot at Tenth and Hill Streets, Los Angeles, be renewed for a period of one year, effective September 21, 1953, the rate of compensation to be 10% of sales of tickets.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens, item three, under Appropriations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter of Transmittal from the Planning Commission and Engineering Department, recommending approval of Tract No. 17483, consisting of 100 lots located on the northeasterly corner of Arlington Avenue and 174th Street, to be developed by the Watt Development Company.

Councilman Drale said he had received several complaints that the Watt Development Company has not complied with the provision that trees be planted and maintained, in the two or three tracts they have already constructed in Torrance.

Councilman Spelman moved approval of Tract No. 17483 be withheld until the Watt Development Company complied with all the requirements on their previous tracts and that the City Engineer be instructed to write this company advising them why Tract No. 17483 was not approved at this time. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 9:00 p.m. Mayor Schwab declared a ten-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

Letter of Transmittal from the Planning Commission and the Engineering Department recommending approval of Tract No. 19237, consisting of 78 lots located north of 182nd Street, west of Tract No. 15880, to be developed by the Milton Kauffman Construction Company.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission and the Engineering Department, calling special attention to Special Condition under Item No. 13. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Transmittal Form for Planning Commission Case No. 273, petition of Martin M. Burke for a Variance to construct a motel and R-3 development (which is situated in an A-1 Zone), recommending approval subject to the condition the large permanent parking area be covered and that any additional permanent parking areas shall be likewise covered.

Councilman Benstead moved the Variance under Case No. 273 be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Transmittal Form for Planning Commission Case No. 274, petition of H. H. Mattoon for Change of Zone for Lots 1, 2, 4 and portion of Lot A which borders on Lots 1 and 4 in Tract 9901 (N/E corner of 203rd Street and Crenshaw Blvd.), recommending disapproval and requesting the third and final hearing on this Case be held before the City Council.

Mayor Schwab set October 13, 1953, as the date for the third and final hearing on Case No. 274.

Transmittal Form for Planning Commission Case No. 275, petition of John E. Miller for a Variance to build a single-family dwelling on a 47' x 150' lot. recommending approval.

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Councilman Blount moved the Variance under Case No. 275 be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request of Planning Commission to meet with the City Council for study of Case No. 265, Change of Zone initiated by the Planning Commission on Yukon Avenue and 174th Street, and to verify signatures on all petitions received relative to Case No. 265.

Mayor Schwab set Friday, September 25, 1953, at 8:00 p.m. as the time for the joint meeting.

Letter from the Planning Commission recommending denial of petition protesting Change of name of Denny Road to Selma Road.

Councilman Benstead moved this matter be taken up with the Planning Commission at the joint meeting to be held Friday evening. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Letter from the Planning Commission recommending approval of the request of the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company to improve property north of Maricopa Street.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2441

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN GRANT OF EASEMENT FROM THE CITY OF TORRANCE TO THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2441. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Clerk Bartlett said the Torrance Plaza Home Owners' Association had presented him with complimentary tickets for the Councilmen for their dance to be held at the Hollywood Riviera Club on September 26, 1953. The Council expressed their appreciation.

Councilman Drale requested the letter from the Pacific Hills Home Owners, Inc., dated September 6, 1953, regarding the Torrance Sand and Gravel Company, be made a part of the record. Councilman Spelman so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Councilman Benstead moved the Library and Civic Building in North Torrance be repaired and painted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved the Council go on record as protesting the recent redistricting and setting up new districts in Los Angeles County, which subjects Torrance to two Supervisors. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously.

Councilman Drale requested City Attorney Hall to draw up a Resolution protesting this redistricting and that a copy be sent to Goodwin S. Knight, Governor Earl Warren and the Board of Supervisors. Attorney Hall suggested that in view of the time element, perhaps he should forward excerpts from the Minutes. Councilman Drale wanted it stressed that the City was not informed of the plan to put Torrance in two districts.

Councilman Spelman inquired if the traffic signals at Sepulveda and Hawthorne were turned on yet. City Manager Stevens said he had been advised by the State office that they would be turned on tomorrow.

Councilman Spelman moved that Ordinance No. 446, regulating traffic upon public streets, be discussed at the next Agenda meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

Councilman Spelman asked that City Manager Stevens write to the Chamber of Commerce and request them to contact the merchants to cooperate in keeping the city streets cleaner and suggesting that they place all their sweepings in tight metal containers and not in the streets.

Mayor Schwab appointed the following committee: City Manager Stevens, City Attorney Hall, Councilman Benstead, Councilman Blount and Beverly B. Smith, President of the Planning Commission, to study the possibilities of the City acquiring oil rights at the Torrance Municipal Airport.

Councilman Drale inqured if action was to be taken on the ordinance regarding the outlawing of hog ranches. City Attorney Hall advised the Council this was not in final form - merely a draft. Councilman Drale requested City Clerk Bartlett to read the ordinance in its entirety. Councilman Drale then requested the ordinance be referred to the next Agenda meeting.

Mr. J. R. Newville of the Engineering Service Corporation, engineers for the Don-Ja-Ran Corporation, said he was of the opinion some sort of an agreement had been reached on the property, that they had worked all weekend to get a map that meets with the requirements of the City, the property owners and the developers. He realized it was not on the agenda tonight, but since it has been discussed rather thoroughly over a period of several months, he wondered if the Council would take action on it tonight.

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City Attorney Hall said he did not believe any action should be taken on Tracts 19305 and 19306 tonight until we hear formally from the Hollywood Riviera Home Owners' Association. He said Commander Mason had examined the map but they want time to call more of their people together, as they have not had much time to examine this map.

After a general discussion, Mayor Schwab inquired if Commander Mason would try and have an answer for the Council for their meeting October 29th, as this has been hanging fire a long time. Commander Mason assured him of his cooperation.

Mr. Crotty of the Dixie Lee Studios complained of solicitors who come into Torrance and canvas door to door. He said a crew going through Torrance takes approximately \$20,000 out of the City without paying any taxes to the City. He thought the local business people should have some protection. Councilman Spelman thought the business license ordinance should be given more publicity. Councilman Blount advised Mr. Crotty it was his opinion that a man who has a business license in this City has a right to solicit and suggested he go to the City Attorney's office and read the ordinance. Mayor Schwab requested this matter be discussed at the next Agenda meeting.

Chief Stroh requested the Traffic Commission to meet in a few days as he has received a lot of complaints that should be run down; one complaint came up tonight regarding sidewalks. "I have had about a hundred telephone calls this week about the condition on Plaza Del Amo in regards to sidewalks - children coming from the north to the Elementary School and children going up Plaza Del Amo to the Nativity School. I think they have very good arguments. The City paved Plaza Del Amo for parking cars, and at that time we suggested the school purchase some of the Santa Fe land right across from Tree Road for a parking lot. That would give the children ample room to walk up and down Plaza Del Amo without getting run over. Traffic is very bad on that street, and the children have to walk out in the street because there are cars parked next

to the fence. I believe this should be given very serious thought and consideration because some child is going to get seriously hurt there. We could prohibit cars from parking on the side of the street by the fence - make them park on the opposite side, and paint a sidewalk along the pavement. It would give the kids something to walk on." Mayor Schwab requested this matter be placed on the next Agenda.

Councilman Drale requested Mr. Hall to write a letter to O'Melveny and Myers to ascertain whether it would be legal for the City of Torrance to use the unused portion of the bond money, \$500,000, for civic improvements. Mr. Hall said that in calling for that type of opinion he wanted the City Council to realize it would involve some expense to the City and inquired if he was so authorized. Mr. Hall said he would like to clarify his authority in this matter; he thought the City should get the opinion of a specialist in municipal affairs. Councilman Drale requested this matter be placed on the next Agenda.

City Clerk Bartlett requested the Council to adjourn until 8:00 p.m., September 29, 1953, in order to take up the matter of interest rates on our Registered Warrants.

Councilman Spelman moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved to adjourn to September 29, 1953. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously.

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE